

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Service Reductions Announced at Inland Empire California State Parks

In order to help meet a portion of the Department wide \$11 million reduction this 2011/12 fiscal year, and a \$22 million reduction in fiscal year 2012/13 as outlined in AB 95, which was passed by the Legislation and signed into law by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. in March 2011, the following Inland Empire State Park units will be implementing a Service Reduction Plan. In order to realize significant savings to help meet this budget reduction while limiting impacts to the many visitors who enjoy our local State Parks, various weekday park closures will occur starting October 1, 2011.

“In order to maintain high quality service and public safety standards during high-peak visitor use periods experienced on weekends and holidays we have no other choice but to reduce services during slower non-peak visitor use periods such as weekdays”, said Ron Krueper, Inland Empire District Superintendent. “The cost to operate and staff a State Park on a non-peak weekday is significant and that cost will not be offset by the minimal amount of fees collected at park entrances for Day Use and Camping due to light attendance”.

To achieve the budgeted savings, weekday service reductions will take place at the following parks **starting October 1, 2011** until further notice:

- **Lake Perris SRA** - Park closed to public vehicle entry for day use and camping **every Tuesday and Wednesday each week** until April 30, 2012. **Park will be open for Day Use and Camping Thursday through Monday and any holidays each week** until April 30, 2012. Park Day Use hours changed to 7am – 6pm (current hours 6am – 8pm). Starting **May 1, 2012 to September 30, 2012 – Park returns to being open 7 days a week** with Day Use hours changed to 6am to 10pm. **On October 1, 2012** the park will return to the same weekday service reduction cycle for fiscal year 2012/13.
- **Silverwood Lake SRA** - Park closed to public vehicle entry for day use and camping **every Wednesday and Thursday each week** until April 30, 2012. **Park will be open for Day Use and Camping Friday through Tuesday and any holidays each week** until April 30, 2012. Park Day Use hours changed to 7am – 5pm (current hours 7am – 7pm). Starting **May 1, 2012 to September 30, 2012 – Park returns to being open 7**

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days a week with Day Use hours changed to 6am to 9pm. **On October 1, 2012** the park will return to the same weekday service reduction cycle for fiscal year 2012/13.

- **California Citrus SHP** - Park closed to public vehicle entry for day use **every Tuesday through Thursday each week** until further notice. **Park will be open Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday each week.** Summer Day Use hours remain 8am – 5pm weekdays and 8 am – 7pm weekends. Winter Day Use hours will remain 8am-5pm. **Weddings and Sunkist Building Rentals will still be available 7 days a week through the California Citrus Non-Profit Management Corporation. School tours will also still be accommodated by park volunteers on a case by case basis.**
- **Chino Hills SP** - Park closed to public vehicle entry for day use and camping **every Tuesday through Thursday each week** until further notice. **Park will be open Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday each week.** Summer Day Use hours remain 8am – 7pm. Winter hours will remain 8am – 5pm.
- **Mount San Jacinto SP** - Idyllwild Campground, Day Use and Sector Office will be closed **every Wednesday and Thursday each week** until April 30, 2012. This facility will be **open Friday through Tuesday each week.** Starting **May 1, 2012 to September 30, 2012** these park facilities we revert back to being open 7 days a week. **On October 1, 2012** the park will return to the same weekday service reduction cycle for fiscal year 2012/13. Stone Creek Campground near Idyllwild is normally closed for the winter season and will be open during the summer season. **Mount San Jacinto Wilderness Area and Long Valley Ranger Station (Palm Springs Tram area) will remain open year round as usual.**
- **San Timoteo and Wildwood Canyon - No Service Reductions.**

What does the future hold for these State Parks after June 30, 2013? “We remain optimistic that additional funding will be found for following fiscal years and we will not have to continue with these Service Reductions or worse, implement additional reductions which could include complete park closures”, said Krueper.